

# The Range Rider



## USE THE WATER THAT FALLS

Men are creatures of habit, both as to actions and as to thinking. We do not always have our heads up to see things that others have done or to see our own possibilities.

I received an awakening recently in talking to Mr. M. E. Musgrave of the Soil Conservation Service. He had the pictures and the facts on the following:

Down in the general vicinity of Tucson, Arizona where grass is scarce or non-existent, where the desert flora is rough shrubs and cactus, a man took up a homestead. He started out on the basis of putting to work the water that fell, instead of letting it collect in the low places and run to waste. He built a series of little ditches that caught and utilized on the higher places every drop of moisture that fell. When it rained, he pattered around with a shovel, seeing to it that the water did not get away. Result: a hundred-fold production of forage upon his homestead as compared with the land outside. Air-plane and other pictures show an oasis of grass in a barren desert.

All of this is based upon the principle of using the water that falls.

With the wealth of CCC labor at our disposal, we need to stop and think what we are doing with it. Our job is that of improving the carrying capacity of the range. We can put to good use some of the simple planning and resourcefulness of the Arizona homesteader.

Let's use the water that falls!

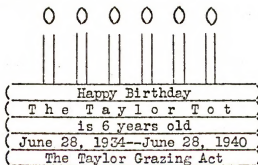
(Sgd) R. H. Rutledge,

Director of Grazing.

July 5, 1940

Department of the Interior  
Grazing Service  
Washington

Vol. 2, No. 27



\* \* R R \* \*

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Bonneville Grazing District, Utah (No. 2)

In this grazing district of west-central Utah where the waters of old Lake Bonneville once stood hundreds of feet deep, there now graze approximately 700,000 head of livestock licenses and distributed on the Federal range in the best interests of conservation under provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act.

Bonneville Lake was the name Captain Bonneville, a Frenchman in the service of the United States Army about 1833, gave to an inland sea which occupied part of the Great Basin in prehistoric times. Utah's Great Salt Lake is a remnant of this once fresh water lake which extended from southern Idaho into central Utah and west from the Wasatch Mountains into Nevada.

Although Great Salt Lake today occupies only a small portion of the area it once covered, it is nationally known. Its waters are 27 percent salt. The specific gravity is 1.17. The many bathers who visit the lake annually for an exhilarating dip find that instead of swimming they bob about the surface of the water like a cork.

Bonneville Salt Flats--an area once covered by the waters of the lake--are internationally known for it was here that the automobile speed record was established. Industrially the salt flats are important because of the refining of salt and potash. Here, it is said, is enough salt to pickle the world.

Today, within the shore lines of old Lake Bonneville is located over 80 percent of the area comprising Bonneville Grazing District. Here is vegetation of varying types, palatability, and density. Even the salt and alkali flats produce plants with some forage value. There is no area of any appreciable size where the plants are not adapted to grazing by some class of livestock at some season of the year. The driest and most desolate looking areas make suitable winter ranges, especially now that stock watering facilities have been developed.

(--Ute Round-Up)

\* \* R R \* \*

TAYLOR TOT GROWS UP

Today the Baby's six years old.  
 What sturdy legs he's got!  
 Not half the story has been told  
 Of all the good he's wrought.  
 He's been the motivating force  
 Behind a moving scene  
 That shifted from distress, remorse--  
 To happiness serene.  
 He's made the sight a lovely one  
 Out on the ranges vast--  
 The silver on the sage is turning  
 "Golden" in the West!

\* \* R R \*

GRAZING SERVICE ORDER NO. 20.

Effective July 1, 1940, regional offices will be charged with final responsibility for the maintenance of leave records and for the proper handling of matters pertaining to employee compensation for injury suffered within the scope of employment.

\* \* R R \*

THAT'S FIRE CONSCIOUSNESS

While en route from Shoshone to Hagerman on June 19, Foreman Huskisson and 14 men comprising his fire crew from G-95, Idaho, noticed smoke about a mile from the highway. They turned off to investigate and found a fire burning rapidly toward a fence against which tumbleweeds were piled high. The fence line ended at the back door of a rancher's home. By fighting desperately, the men were able to control the fire before it reached the fence.

The rancher and his wife had not seen the fire until the arrival of the Grazing Service men brought it to their attention. A delay of a few moments would have meant the loss of their home and many more acres of valuable forage.

\* \* R R \*

GRIM HUMOR

In the Duffel Bag column of The Forest Log we read that "Gordon Rice, super salesman, waylaid the owner of 40 acres of nice timberland last week. Gordon sold him a fire pump and a thousand feet of hose, taking the timberland as a down payment!"

\* \* R R \*

CORRECTION

The new name for California Grazing District No. 1 was incorrectly spelled in last week's Range Rider. The correct spelling of this word is MOJAVE.

\* \* R R \* \*

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

J. N. Gossett, Mountain Valley, Montana sheepgrower, asserts that by attaching flashlights to the heads of his sheep he is finding security from attacks of predatory animals. He says he places a collar around the necks of several sheep so that the lights move up and down with the movement of the flock. --The New Mexico Stockman, May 1940.

\* \* R R \* \*

NO! NO! DON'T DO THAT.....

Don't leave that campfire burning! Don't throw that cigarette away! Don't burn that camp trash near dry brush! Don't you realize that within one hour that whole mountainside would be a roaring inferno? And after that....what? Maybe more mountainsides in all directions would become a mass of black smoke and raging flame. That's not half of it. Wildlife would be destroyed, thousands of acres of lush range feed ruined, beautiful scenery transformed into black ugliness, and a vast spread of valuable watersheds gone for years to come. Worse yet, courageous fire-fighters might lose their lives trying to extinguish the fire. Would that be manslaughter? Why don't people think it over? Approximately half of all the loss and destruction of forest fires is caused by man--disasters that could be avoided if people were careful.....

(--Lamont Johnson, in Western Farm Life.)

\* \* R R \* \*

LIVESTOCK RESCUED

We see where several fellows from G-127, Whitehall, Montana were responsible for the rescue of two cattle and a horse from the cellar of a deserted farm dwelling. The animals had wandered into the old building and fallen into the basement when the floor collapsed. A crew of men from the camp worked until midnight driving a tunnel underneath the building so the half-starved animals could get out.

\* \* R R \* \*

FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION and well-being, report all accidents, no matter how minor.

\* \* R R \* \*